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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/676,988

**Applicant(s)**

FERLITSCH, ANDREW R.

**Examiner**

Peter K. Huntsinger

**Art Unit**

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-19, 24-29 and 31-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 and 30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-19, 24-29 and 31-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10, 12-19, 24-29 and 31-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The applicant has not traversed the examiner's assertion of official notice for the assertions provided in claims 10, 16 and 38. Therefore, the common knowledge or well-known in the art statement is taken to be admitted prior art

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 32, 33 and 37 objected to because of the following informalities:  
Claims 32, 33, and 37 require correcting the roman numerals. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-10, 12-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi '707 in view of applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177, and Aiello '745.

Referring to **claim 1**, Taniguchi '707 discloses in a printing system, a method for displaying print job information for selection on a printer prior to despooling the print jobs to the printer, the method comprising:

initiating a print job (S601 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 28-29, user generates print job);  
preserving the print job on at least one of (i) a client computer device and (ii) a print server (S602 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 30-35, generated print jobs stored into auxiliary memory D1 of the computer);

storing job data, wherein the job data is associated with the print job and transmitting the job data to a printing device (S606 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 1-10, print job management data is sent to printer);

displaying at least a portion of the job data prior to despooling the print job to the printing device (S607 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 11-15, printer displays print job management data prior to unqueuing [despooling] print job);

receiving a request at the printing device to despool the print job to the printing device (S608 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 16-19);

despooling the print job to the printing device (col. 7, lines 34-39, printer pulls print job off of buffer); and

rendering the print job at the printing device (S612 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 34-39, printer executes printing).

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly a front panel of a printer.

The applicant's admitted prior art discloses a front panel of a printer (page 3, lines 14-17, job data displayed on a menu from the front panel of printer).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to display data on a front panel of a printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to utilize a convenient method of providing information to the user.

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly storing and transmitting data with a print server.

Gase '177 discloses storing data on the print server and transmitting the data from the print server to a printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a print server to route all data sent from the client computer to the printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide in a network that includes multiple printers and client computers central administration and updating of print data.

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly determining that the print job is not compatible with the printing device and converting it to a format that is compatible.

Aiello '745 discloses determining that the print job is in a format not compatible with the printing device (col. 5, lines 51-56, the DTF process interrogates the job); and

converting the print job into a format that is compatible with the printing device (col. 5, lines 51-56, converts the data stream to a format compatible with a target printer);

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert a print job into a compatible format of the printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide efficient routing of print jobs from a source to a printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Aiello '745, applicant's admitted prior art and Gase '177 with Taniguchi '707 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Referring to **claim 2**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein initiating the print job is performed at the client computer device, and wherein the print job is initiated without specifying the printing device (S601 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 28-29, user generates print job).

Referring to **claim 3**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein transmitting the job data to the printing device comprises:

querying queued print jobs (S605 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 61-67, user selects the computer at the printer); and

pulling the job data to the printing device as a result of the query performed (S606 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 1-10, print job management data transmitted in response to print inquiry).

Gase '177 discloses transmitting the data from the print server to a printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

Referring to **claim 4**, Taniguchi '707 discloses receiving input that selects the job data and initiates despooling and rendering the print job (S608 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 16-19, user selects desired print job).

Referring to **claim 5**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein querying is based on at least one of:

- (i) jobs on a specific printer server;
- (ii) jobs from a specific client computer device;
- (iii) jobs initiated from a specific user;
- (iv) a specific print job; and
- (v) a specific printing characteristic (S605 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 61-67, user selects the computer at the printer).

Referring to **claim 6**, Gase '177 discloses wherein the printer server is not associated with any particular printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

Referring to **claim 7**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein the job data uniquely identifies and allows locating the print job, and wherein the job data includes at least one of:

- (i) a job name;
- (ii) a job identification;

(iii) a client name; and

(iv) a user name (print job management data of Fig. 2).

Referring to **claim 8**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein displaying at least a portion of the job data comprises one of:

displaying the at least a portion of the job data on a front panel of the printing device for selection by a user; and

remotely displaying the at least a portion of the job data on an interface for selection by a user (S607 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 11-15, printer displays print job management data prior to unqueuing [despooling] print job).

Referring to **claim 9**, Taniguchi '707 discloses at least one of:

updating a current status of the print job at the client computer device; and

updating the current status of the print job at the print server (S613 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 44-48, the computer subtracts from the value of the job reproduction number).

Referring to **claim 10**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein transmitting the job data to the printing device comprises:

querying queued print jobs (S605 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 61-67, user selects the computer at the printer); and

pulling the job data to the printing device as a result of the query performed (S606 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 1-10, print job management data transmitted in response to print inquiry).



Gase '177 discloses transmitting the data from the print server to a printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

Taniguchi '707 and Gase '177 do not disclose expressly multiple print servers.

The applicant's admitted prior art teaches a printer that is connected to multiple print servers (See the Official Notice assertion made 4/11/08). At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize multiple print servers in the system of Taniguchi '707. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more extensive network and increased capability by providing additional print servers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine well known prior art with Taniguchi '707, applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177, and Aiello '745 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Referring to **claim 12**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein transmitting updated status information from the printing device to at least one of (i) the print server and (ii) the client computer device server (S613 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 44-48, the computer subtracts from the value of the job reproduction number).

Referring to **claim 13**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein transmitting updated status information updates at least one of:

- (i) a status of the print job; and
- (ii) a status of the job data (S613 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 44-48, the computer subtracts from the value of the job reproduction number).

Referring to **claim 14**, Taniguchi '707 discloses wherein the updated status information includes at least one of:

(i) information indicating that the print job has been despoiled to the printing device; and

(ii) information that the print job has been rendered at the printing device (S613 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 44-48, the computer subtracts from the value of the job reproduction number).

Referring to **claim 15**, Taniguchi '707 discloses at least one of:

deleting the print job at the client computing device;

deleting the print job at the printer server; and

deleting the job data at the printer server (S615 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 49-52, job is deleted from computer 1).

Referring to **claim 16**, Taniguchi '707 discloses the step for displaying at least a portion of the job data and the step for despoiling the print job to the printing device, but does not disclose expressly converting journalized print data into a printer ready format.

The applicant's admitted prior art teaches journalized print data that is converted into a printer ready format after it is removed from the queue (See the Official Notice assertion made 4/11/08). The motivation for doing so would have been to provide the print data to the printer in a form it can process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine well known prior art with Taniguchi '707, applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177 and Aiello '745 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

Referring to **claim 17**, Aiello '745 discloses wherein the non-compatible format is a native format of an originating document of the print job (col. 6, lines 7-33, bank statements and image forms are converted using the DTF process).

Referring to **claim 29**, see the rejection of claim 10 above.

6. Claim 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi '707, applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177 and Aiello '745 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Buis '007.

Referring to **claim 18**, Taniguchi '707 discloses a printing device but does not disclose expressly emulating capabilities incompatible with the printing device.

Buis '007 discloses if the print job requires one or more capabilities that are incompatible with the printing device (block 360 of Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 8-25, determines whether print 40 is configured for CSE or N-up printing), emulating the capabilities to be-make the print job compatible with the printing device (block 364 of Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 26-42, if it is determined that two logical pages or sidemaps will fit within the printable area, print system manager adds an additional value to the LCC structured field to activate CSE [or N-up printing]).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to emulate capabilities that are incompatible with the printing device. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow providing these specific capabilities on a printer that does not normally enable them. Therefore, it would have been obvious to

combine Buis '007 with Taniguchi '707, applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177, and Aiello '745 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

Referring to **claim 19**, Buis '007 discloses wherein the capabilities relate to at least one of:

- (i) copy collation;
- (ii) booklet printing; and
- (iii) N-up printing (col. 4, lines 20-33, N-up printing is caused by the emulation instruction).

7. Claims 24-28 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi '707 in view of Gase '177 and Aiello '745.

Referring to **claim 24**, Taniguchi '707 discloses a computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for providing interactive printing, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code

receiving input to initiate a print job (S601 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 28-29, user generates print job);

preserving the print job on at least one of (i) a client computer device and (ii) a print server (S602 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 30-35, generated print jobs stored into auxiliary memory D1 of the computer);

storing job data, wherein the job data is associated with the print job and transmitting the job data to a printing device (S606 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 1-10, print job management data is sent to printer);

displaying at least a portion of the job data prior to despooling the print job to the printing device (S607 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 11-15, printer displays print job management data prior to unqueuing [despooling] print job);

receiving a selection at the printing device to print the print job to the printing device (S608 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 16-19);

despooling the print job to the printing device (col. 7, lines 34-39, printer pulls print job off of buffer); and

rendering the print job at the printing device (S612 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 34-39, printer executes printing).

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly storing and transmitting data with a print server.

Gase '177 discloses storing data on the print server and transmitting the data from the print server to a printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a print server to route all data sent from the client computer to the printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide in a network that includes multiple printers and client computers central administration and updating of print data.

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly determining that the print job is not compatible with the printing device and converting it to a format that is compatible.

Aiello '745 discloses determining that the print job is in a printer-ready format capable of being printed at the printing device (col. 5, lines 51-56, the DTF process interrogates the job); and

converting the print job into a printer-dependent format specific to the printing device that received the selection to print the print job (col. 5, lines 51-56, converts the data stream to a format compatible with a target printer);

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to convert a print job into a compatible format of the printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide efficient routing of print jobs from a source to a printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Aiello '745 and Gase '177 with Taniguchi '707 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 24.

Referring to **claim 25**, see the rejection of claim 2 above.

Referring to **claim 26**, see the rejection of claim 3 above.

Referring to **claim 27**, see the rejection of claim 4 above.

Referring to **claim 28**, see the rejection of claim 8 above.

Referring to **claim 31**, see the rejection of claim 12 above.

Referring to **claim 32**, see the rejection of claim 13 above.

Referring to **claim 33**, see the rejection of claim 14 above.

Referring to **claim 34**, see the rejection of claim 15 above.

8. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi '707, Gase '177 and Aiello '745 as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Buis '007.

Referring to **claim 35**, see the rejection of claim 18 above.

9. Claims 36 -38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi '707 in view of applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177, and Buis '007.

Referring to **claim 36**, Taniguchi '707 discloses in a printing system, a method for displaying print job information for selection on a printer prior to despooling the print jobs to the printer, the method comprising:

initiating a print job (S601 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 28-29, user generates print job);  
preserving the print job on at least one of (i) a client computer device and (ii) a print server (S602 of Fig. 6, col. 6, lines 30-35, generated print jobs stored into auxiliary memory D1 of the computer);

storing job data, wherein the job data is associated with the print job and transmitting the job data to a printing device (S606 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 1-10, print job management data is sent to printer);

displaying at least a portion of the job data prior to despooling the print job to the printing device (S607 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 11-15, printer displays print job management data prior to unqueuing [despooling] print job);

receiving a request at the printing device to despool the print job to the printing device (S608 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 16-19);

despooling the print job to the printing device (col. 7, lines 34-39, printer pulls print job off of buffer); and

rendering the print job at the printing device (S612 of Fig. 6, col. 7, lines 34-39, printer executes printing).

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly a front panel of a printer.

Applicant's background section discloses a front panel of a printer (page 3, lines 14-17, job data displayed on a menu from the front panel of printer).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to display data on a front panel of a printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to utilize a convenient method of providing information to the user.

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly storing and transmitting data with a print server.

Gase '177 discloses storing data on the print server and transmitting the data from the print server to a printing device (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-53, File server 16 enables clients to be connected to printers).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a print server to route all data sent from the client computer to the printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide in a network that includes multiple printers and client computers central administration and updating of print data.

Taniguchi '707 does not disclose expressly emulating capabilities incompatible with the printing device.



Buis '007 discloses if the print job requires one or more capabilities that are incompatible with the printing device (block 360 of Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 8-25, determines whether print 40 is configured for CSE or N-up printing), emulating the capabilities to be-make the print job compatible with the printing device (block 364 of Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 26-42, if it is determined that two logical pages or sidemaps will fit within the printable area, print system manager adds an additional value to the LCC structured field to activate CSE [or N-up printing]).

At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to emulate capabilities that are incompatible with the printing device. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow providing these specific capabilities on a printer that does not normally enable them. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Buis '007 with Taniguchi '707, applicant's admitted prior art, Gase '177, and Buis '007 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 36.

Referring to **claim 37**, see the rejection of claim 19 above.

Referring to **claim 38**, see the rejection of claim 16 above.

### ***Conclusion***

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Peter K. Huntsinger/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2625/David K Moore/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625